

# Maritime Situational Awareness in the era of Large Language/Reasoning Models

Alexander Artikis<sup>1,2</sup>

Andreas Kouvaras<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Piraeus, Greece

<sup>2</sup>NCSR Demokritos, Athens, Greece

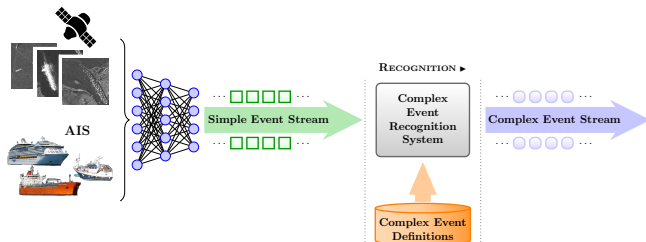
<https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr>



# Tutorial Resources

- ▶ Slides: <https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr/blog/talks/maris25/>
- ▶ Papers, code, datasets: <http://cer.iit.demokritos.gr>

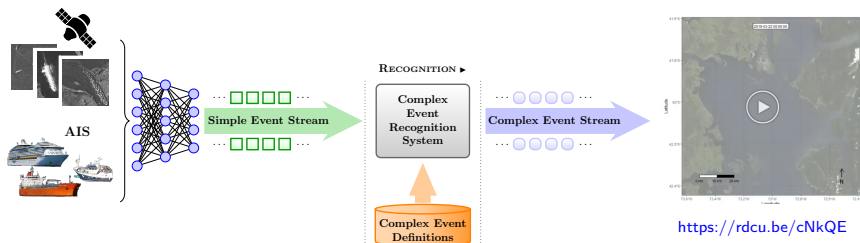
# Complex Event Recognition (CER)<sup>\*,†</sup>



<sup>\*</sup> Giatrakos et al, Complex Event Recognition in the Big Data Era: A Survey. VLDB Journal, 2020.

<sup>†</sup> Alevizos et al, Probabilistic Complex Event Recognition: A Survey. ACM Computing Surveys, 2017.

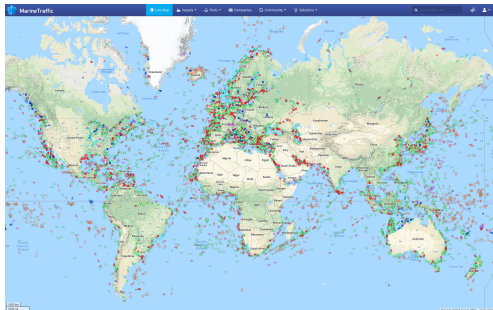
# Complex Event Recognition (CER)<sup>\*,†</sup>



<sup>\*</sup> Giatrakos et al, Complex Event Recognition in the Big Data Era: A Survey. VLDB Journal, 2020.

<sup>†</sup> Alevizos et al, Probabilistic Complex Event Recognition: A Survey. ACM Computing Surveys, 2017.

# Maritime Situational Awareness\*

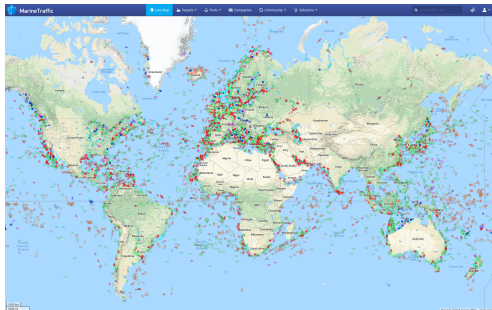


<http://www.marinetraffic.com>

---

\* Artikis and Zissis, Guide to Maritime Informatics, Springer, 2021.

# Maritime Situational Awareness\*



<http://www.marinetraffic.com>

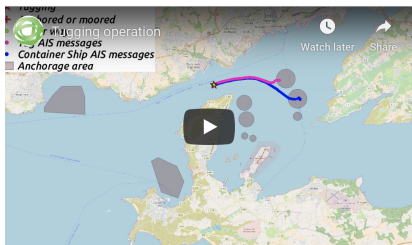


<https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr> (fishing vessel)

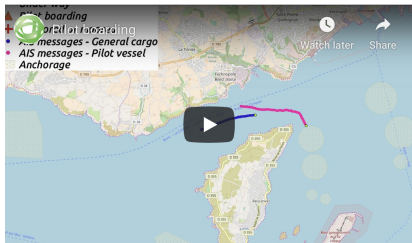
---

\* Artikis and Zissis, Guide to Maritime Informatics, Springer, 2021.

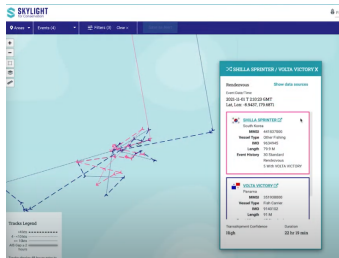
# Maritime Situational Awareness\*



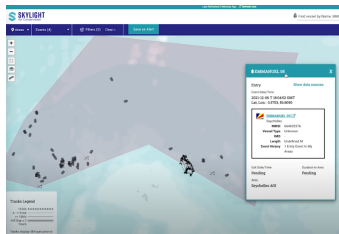
<https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr> (tugging)



<https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr> (pilot boarding)



<https://www.skylight.global> (rendez-vous)



<https://www.skylight.global> (enter area)

\* Artikis and Zissis, Guide to Maritime Informatics, Springer, 2021.

# Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.

# Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.
- ▶ **Variety:** Position signals need to be combined with other data streams
  - ▶ Weather forecasts, sea currents, etc.
- ▶ ... and static information
  - ▶ NATURA areas, shallow waters areas, coastlines, etc.

# Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.
- ▶ **Variety:** Position signals need to be combined with other data streams
  - ▶ Weather forecasts, sea currents, etc.
- ▶ ... and static information
  - ▶ NATURA areas, shallow waters areas, coastlines, etc.
- ▶ Lack of **Veracity:** GPS manipulation, vessels reporting false identity, communication gaps.

# Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.
- ▶ **Variety:** Position signals need to be combined with other data streams
  - ▶ Weather forecasts, sea currents, etc.
- ▶ ... and static information
  - ▶ NATURA areas, shallow waters areas, coastlines, etc.
- ▶ Lack of **Veracity:** GPS manipulation, vessels reporting false identity, communication gaps.
- ▶ **Distribution:** Vessels operating across the globe.

# Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
  - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.

# Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
  - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
  - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.

# Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
  - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
  - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.
- ▶ Automated knowledge construction
  - ▶ to avoid the time-consuming, error-prone manual CE definition development.

# Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
  - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
  - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.
- ▶ Automated knowledge construction
  - ▶ to avoid the time-consuming, error-prone manual CE definition development.
- ▶ Reasoning under uncertainty
  - ▶ to deal with various types of noise.

# Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
  - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
  - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.
- ▶ Automated knowledge construction
  - ▶ to avoid the time-consuming, error-prone manual CE definition development.
- ▶ Reasoning under uncertainty
  - ▶ to deal with various types of noise.
- ▶ Complex event forecasting
  - ▶ to support proactive decision-making.

# Course Structure

- ▶ **Part I:** Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).

# Course Structure

- ▶ **Part I:** Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
- ▶ **Part II:** A system meeting the CER requirements ...

# Course Structure

- ▶ [Part I](#): Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
- ▶ [Part II](#): A system meeting the CER requirements ...
- ▶ ... powered by Large Language/Reasoning Models (LLMs/LRMs) — [Part III](#).

# Course Structure

- ▶ [Part I](#): Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
- ▶ [Part II](#): A system meeting the CER requirements ...
- ▶ ... powered by Large Language/Reasoning Models (LLMs/LRMs) — [Part III](#).
- ▶ [Part IV](#): Open issues & further research.

# Course Structure

- ▶ **Part I:** Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
  - ▶ **Part II:** A system meeting the CER requirements ...
  - ▶ ... powered by Large Language/Reasoning Models (LLMs/LRMs) — **Part III**.
  - ▶ **Part IV:** Open issues & further research.
- 
- ▶ Each of the first 3 parts is followed by tutorial questions (15').
  - ▶ The top-3 students will be announced at the end of the course!

# Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER)

# Complex Event Recognition vs DataBase Management Systems\*

Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.

---

\*Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

# Complex Event Recognition vs DataBase Management Systems\*

Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
  - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
  - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).

---

\*Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

# Complex Event Recognition vs DataBase Management Systems\*

## Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
  - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
  - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).
- ▶ No assumption can be made on data arrival order.

---

\* Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

# Complex Event Recognition vs DataBase Management Systems\*

## Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
  - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
  - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).
- ▶ No assumption can be made on data arrival order.
- ▶ Users install **standing/continuous queries**:
  - ▶ Queries deployed once and executed continuously until removed.
  - ▶ Online reasoning.

---

\* Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

# Complex Event Recognition vs DataBase Management Systems\*

## Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
  - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
  - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).
- ▶ No assumption can be made on data arrival order.
- ▶ Users install **standing/continuous queries**:
  - ▶ Queries deployed once and executed continuously until removed.
  - ▶ Online reasoning.
- ▶ Latency requirements are very strict.

---

\* Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

# Complex Event Recognition vs Deep Learning

We have [Deep Learning](#) and it seems to work. Can we go home?

# Complex Event Recognition vs Deep Learning

We have **Deep Learning** and it seems to work. Can we go home?

**CER:**

- ▶ Formal semantics\* for trustworthy models.

---

\* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

# Complex Event Recognition vs Deep Learning

We have **Deep Learning** and it seems to work. Can we go home?

**CER:**

- ▶ Formal semantics\* for trustworthy models.
- ▶ Explanation — why did we detect a complex event?

---

\* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

# Complex Event Recognition vs Deep Learning

We have **Deep Learning** and it seems to work. Can we go home?

**CER:**

- ▶ Formal semantics\* for trustworthy models.
- ▶ Explanation — why did we detect a complex event?
- ▶ **Machine Learning** is necessary. But:
  - ▶ Complex events are rare.
  - ▶ Supervision is scarce.

---

\* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

# Complex Event Recognition vs Deep Learning

We have **Deep Learning** and it seems to work. Can we go home?

**CER:**

- ▶ Formal semantics\* for trustworthy models.
- ▶ Explanation — why did we detect a complex event?
- ▶ **Machine Learning** is necessary. But:
  - ▶ Complex events are rare.
  - ▶ Supervision is scarce.
- ▶ More often than not, background knowledge is available — let's use it!

---

\* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

# Complex Event Recognition vs Large Language/Reasoning Models

- ▶ LLMs/LRMs cannot be used (yet) for CER<sup>\*,†</sup>.

---

<sup>\*</sup>Ishay and Lee, LLM+AL: Bridging Large Language Models and Action Languages for Complex Reasoning About Actions. AAAI 2025.

<sup>†</sup>Shojaee et al, The Illusion of Thinking: Understanding the Strengths and Limitations of Reasoning Models via the Lens of Problem Complexity. <https://ml-site.cdn-apple.com/papers/the-illusion-of-thinking.pdf>, 2025.

# Complex Event Recognition vs Large Language/Reasoning Models

- ▶ LLMs/LRMs cannot be used (yet) for CER<sup>\*,†</sup>.
- ▶ But they may support it — see [Part III](#) of the course!

---

<sup>\*</sup> Ishay and Lee, LLM+AL: Bridging Large Language Models and Action Languages for Complex Reasoning About Actions. AAAI 2025.

<sup>†</sup> Shojaee et al, The Illusion of Thinking: Understanding the Strengths and Limitations of Reasoning Models via the Lens of Problem Complexity. <https://ml-site.cdn-apple.com/papers/the-illusion-of-thinking.pdf>, 2025.

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from $T_1$ to $T_2$ )

- *Sequence*: Two events following each other in time.

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from $T_1$ to $T_2$ )

- ▶ *Sequence*: Two events following each other in time.
- ▶ *Disjunction*: Either of two events occurring, regardless of temporal relations.

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from $T_1$ to $T_2$ )

- ▶ *Sequence*: Two events following each other in time.
- ▶ *Disjunction*: Either of two events occurring, regardless of temporal relations.
- ▶ The combination of *Sequence* and *Disjunction* expresses *Conjunction* (both events occurring).

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from $T_1$ to $T_2$ )

- *Iteration*: An event occurring  $N$  times in sequence, where  $N \geq 0$ . This operation is similar to the *Kleene star* operation in regular expressions, the difference being that *Kleene star* is unbounded.

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from $T_1$ to $T_2$ )

- *Negation*: Absence of event occurrence.

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from $T_1$ to $T_2$ )

- *Negation*: Absence of event occurrence.
- *Selection*: Select those events whose attributes satisfy a set of predicates/relations  $\theta$ , temporal or otherwise.

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing (from <math>T_1</math> to <math>T_2</math>)</i>

- *Projection*: Return an event whose attribute values are a possibly transformed subset of the attribute values of its sub-events.

# A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
$ce^*$		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing (from <math>T_1</math> to <math>T_2</math>)</i>

- ▶ *Projection*: Return an event whose attribute values are a possibly transformed subset of the attribute values of its sub-events.
- ▶ *Windowing*: Evaluate the conditions of an event pattern within a specified time window.

# Processing Model

Selection strategies filter the set of matched patterns.

- ▶ Assume the pattern  $\alpha; \beta$  and the stream  $(\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$ .

# Processing Model

Selection strategies filter the set of matched patterns.

- ▶ Assume the pattern  $\alpha; \beta$  and the stream  $(\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$ .
- ▶ The **multiple selection** strategy produces  $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 3)$  and  $(\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$ .

# Processing Model

Selection strategies filter the set of matched patterns.

- ▶ Assume the pattern  $\alpha; \beta$  and the stream  $(\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$ .
- ▶ The **multiple selection** strategy produces  $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 3)$  and  $(\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$ .
- ▶ The **single selection** strategy produces either  $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 3)$  or  $(\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$ .
- ▶ The single selection strategy represents a family of strategies, depending on the matches actually chosen among all possible ones.

# Instantaneous vs Interval-based Reasoning<sup>\*,†</sup>

Consider:

- ▶ the pattern  $\beta; (\alpha; \gamma)$
- ▶ and the stream  $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 2), (\gamma, 3)$ .

Does the stream match the pattern?

---

<sup>\*</sup>Paschke, ECA-LP / ECA-RuleML: A Homogeneous Event-Condition-Action Logic Programming Language. RuleML, 2006.

<sup>†</sup>White et al, What is "Next" in Event Processing?, PODS, 2007.

## SASE\*: Example (1)

```
PATTERN SEQ(gapStart a, gapEnd b, speedChange c)  
WHERE partition-contiguity  
AND vesselId  
AND c.velocity > 20  
WITHIN 3600
```

---

\*Zhang et al. On complexity and optimization of expensive queries in complex event processing. SIGMOD 2014.

## SASE\*: Example (1)

PATTERN SEQ(*gapStart a, gapEnd b, speedChange c*)  
WHERE partition-contiguity  
AND *vesselId*  
AND *c.velocity* > 20  
WITHIN 3600

Quickly moving away from an area of suspicious activity:

- ▶ After a communication gap, ...
- ▶ a vessel changes speed to over 20 knots.
- ▶ Partition contiguity ensures that *a, b, c* refer to the same vessel (*vesselId*) and are contiguous with respect to that vessel.

---

\*Zhang et al. On complexity and optimization of expensive queries in complex event processing. SIGMOD 2014.

## SASE\*: Example (2)

```
PATTERN SEQ(lowSpeedStart a, turn + b, lowSpeedEnd c)
WHERE skip-till-next-match
AND vesselId
AND  $b[i].heading - b[i-1].heading > 90$ 
WITHIN 21600
```

---

\*Zhang et al. On complexity and optimization of expensive queries in complex event processing. SIGMOD 2014.

## SASE\*: Example (2)

```
PATTERN SEQ(lowSpeedStart a, turn + b, lowSpeedEnd c)
WHERE skip-till-next-match
AND vesselId
AND  $b[i].heading - b[i-1].heading > 90$ 
WITHIN 21600
```

Fishing pattern:

- ▶ A vessel slows down, ...
- ▶ begins a series of turns, where, for each pair of successive turns, their difference in heading is more than 90 degrees, ...
- ▶ and subsequently the vessel stops moving at a low speed.

---

\*Zhang et al. On complexity and optimization of expensive queries in complex event processing. SIGMOD 2014.

# Summary

What we've seen so far:

- ▶ Complex Event Recognition (CER) for Maritime Situational Awareness.
  - ▶ Related research.
  - ▶ Event algebras for CER.

# Summary

What we've seen so far:

- ▶ Complex Event Recognition (CER) for Maritime Situational Awareness.
  - ▶ Related research.
  - ▶ Event algebras for CER.
- ▶ Requirements:
  - ▶ Expressive representation.
  - ▶ Efficient reasoning.
  - ▶ Automated knowledge construction.
  - ▶ Reasoning under uncertainty.
  - ▶ Complex event forecasting.

# Summary

What we've seen so far:

- ▶ Complex Event Recognition (CER) for Maritime Situational Awareness.
  - ▶ Related research.
  - ▶ Event algebras for CER.
- ▶ Requirements:
  - ▶ Expressive representation.
  - ▶ Efficient reasoning.
  - ▶ Automated knowledge construction.
  - ▶ Reasoning under uncertainty.
  - ▶ Complex event forecasting.

Next: A system addressing the CER requirements.